

The Home Improvement and Structural Alterations (HISA) Program is a one-time grant limited to medically necessary improvements and structural alterations necessary to assure the continuation of treatment and/or provide access to the home, essential lavatory and sanitary facilities and does not serve to lend comfort or make life outside the health care facility more acceptable.

Eligibility

- Service connected conditions - \$6800
- Non-service connected condition - \$2000

Authorized Improvement and Structural Alterations

- Roll-in shower
- Permanent ramping to provide access to home
- Widening of doorways for wheelchair access
- Lowering of kitchen/bathroom counter and sink
- Improve entrance path/driveway to provide access to home
- Concrete pad and installation of exterior wheelchair lift mechanism (exceeds \$500)
- Interior/exterior railing for ambulatory or legally blind Veteran
- Plumbing/electrical improvement for home dialysis equipment
- Permits/inspection fees required by local ordinance

Unauthorized Improvement and Structural Alterations

- Exterior deck in excess of 8 foot by 8 foot or area necessary to accommodate wheelchair access
- Construction of pathways to exterior buildings
- Widening driveway in excess of 8 foot by 8 foot or area necessary to accommodate wheelchair and van lifts
- Purchase/installation of spa, hot tub, Jacuzzi-type tub
- Installation fees under \$500 to install removable equipment
- Purchase of removable equipment
- Projects which would duplicate services previously provided by VBA (SAH Grant)
- Home security system
- Repairs done as part of regular home maintenance
- Remodeling of existing bathrooms or building of new bathroom

NOTE: Before the HISA application process can be initiated, the Veteran must requesting a prescription (consult) from a VA or fee basis physician to the Prosthetic Treatment Center for HISA modifications to include the specific alteration(s) needed (refer physician to Physical Medicine and Rehab Service for assistance/consultation), diagnosis and medical justification.

Once the Prosthetic Treatment Center received a request from the Veteran's health care provider, a HISA information packet will be mailed to the Veteran. The Veteran must:

1. Complete and sign VA Form 10-0103 "Veterans Application for Assistance in Acquiring HISA"
2. If the Veteran is not the home-owner, obtain a written statement from the owner of the property authorizing work (leased/rental)
3. Contractor name, contact information and federal tax number
4. Detailed, written statement and plans of project to be performed
5. Itemized list of materials/cost/labor for each part of the project
6. Permits if required by local government agency (Contractor's responsibility)
7. Signed acknowledgement that VA assumes no responsibility/liability and extends no warranty

Contractor requirements:

1. Willing to accept government credit card and understands that payment will not be made until completion of work and signed letter of satisfaction from Veteran is received
2. Bid provides complete description of proposed project and before/after photos
3. Itemize the construction materials/cost/labor for each part of project and the total cost of labor/materials for entire project
4. Complying with all state and local building codes
5. Certify that work meets Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards

Once the completed packet is received by the Prosthetic Treatment Center from the Veteran, the HISA Committee must:

1. Determine if Veteran has received SAH grant for items requested
2. Advise Veteran of final decision in writing
3. Provide VA Form 10-7078 "Authorization and Invoice for Medical and Hospital Services" and appropriate documentation authorizing contractor to proceed with project

Take Note:

- 1. Veteran must consult their VA or Fee Basis primary care provider before initiating the HISA grant application process.**
- 2. The Prosthetic Treatment Center cannot accept HISA applications without a corresponding request from the Veteran's provider.**
- 3. Veteran is responsible for all contract work not authorized by VA**

References:

Title 38 United States Code Section 1717

VHA Handbook 1173.14

MCM No.121-10 Prosthetic and Sensory Aids HISA Program